Applicant : William J. Beyda
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Amendments to the Claims

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An electronic messaging system for filtering electronic messages, comprising an access restriction filter configured to ~~interrogate an electronic message to~~ detect a human-readable access restriction notice in an electronic message by comparing one or more characters of the human-readable access restriction notice to respective characters of one or more access restriction notices stored in memory ~~applicable to both electronic and non-electronic distribution of information contained in at least a portion of the electronic message~~, and to respond to the detection of the human-readable access restriction notice in accordance with a prescribed transmission policy for handling electronic messages containing the detected access restriction notice.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The system of claim 1, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect in the electronic message an access restriction notice indicating ownership of at least a portion of the electronic message.

Claim 3 (original): The system of claim 2, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect a copyright notice in the electronic message.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The system of claim 3, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect the [[a]] copyright notice by comparing one or more characters in the electronic message to respective characters of one or more ~~stored~~ copyright notices stored in memory ~~representations~~.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The system of claim 3, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect the [[a]] copyright notice by comparing characters in ~~interrogating~~ a

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header component of the electronic message <u>with respective characters of the one or more stored copyright notices</u>.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): The system of claim 1, further comprising a character recognizer configured to translate characters in an image component of the electronic message into computer-readable character representations.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): The system of claim 6, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect an access restriction notice by comparing one or more translated computer-readable character representations produced by the character recognizer to one or more stored access restriction representations.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): The system of claim 1, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to block transmission of the electronic message in response to a detected access restriction notice.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): The system of claim 8, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to enable a user to override a blocked electronic message transmission.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): The system of claim 8, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to enable a system administrator to override a blocked electronic message transmission.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): The system of claim 1, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to trigger display of a report to a user in response to a detected access restriction notice.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The system of claim 11, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to trigger display to a user a message reporting that the electronic message cannot be transmitted because of a detected access restriction.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The system of claim 11, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to trigger display to a user a message reporting that a fee must be paid to enable transmission of the electronic message.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method of filtering electronic messages, comprising interrogating an electronic message to detecting a human-readable access restriction notice in an electronic message by comparing one or more characters of the human-readable access restriction notice to respective characters of one or more access restriction notices stored in memory applicable to both electronic and non-electronic distribution of information contained in at least a portion of the electronic message, and

responding to the detection of the human-readable access restriction notice in accordance with a prescribed transmission policy for handling electronic messages containing the detected access restriction notice.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The method of claim 14, wherein interrogating the electronic message the detecting comprises detecting in the electronic message an access restriction notice indicating ownership of at least a portion of the electronic message.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 15, wherein detecting an ownership notice in the electronic message comprises detecting a copyright notice in the electronic message.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The method of claim 16, wherein detecting the [[a]] copyright notice comprises is detected by comparing one or more characters in the electronic message to respective characters of one or more stored copyright notices stored in memory representations.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The method of claim 16, wherein detecting the [[a]] copyright notice comprises comparing characters in is detected by interrogating a header

component of the electronic message with respective characters of the one or more stored copyright notices.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The method of claim 14, further comprising translating characters in a still image component of the electronic message into computer-readable character representations.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): The method of claim 19, wherein an access restriction notice is detected by comparing one or more translated computer-readable character representations to one or more stored access restriction representations.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): The method of claim 14, further comprising translating characters in a video image component of the electronic message into computer-readable character representations.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): The method of claim 21, wherein an access restriction notice is detected by comparing one or more translated computer-readable character representations to one or more stored access restriction representations.

Claim 23 (withdrawn): The method of claim 14, wherein responding to a detected access restriction notice comprises blocking transmission of the electronic message in response to a detected access restriction notice.

Claim 24 (withdrawn): The method of claim 23, wherein responding to a detected access restriction notice comprises enabling a user to override a blocked electronic message transmission.

Claim 25 (withdrawn): The method of claim 23, wherein responding to a detected access restriction notice comprises enabling a system administrator to override a blocked electronic message transmission.

Claim 26 (withdrawn): The method of claim 14, wherein responding to a detected access restriction notice comprises displaying a report to a user in response to a detected access restriction notice.

Claim 27 (withdrawn): The method of claim 26, wherein responding to a detected access restriction notice comprises displaying to a user a message reporting that the electronic message cannot be transmitted because of a detected access restriction.

Claim 28 (withdrawn): The method of claim 26, wherein responding to a detected access restriction notice comprises displaying to a user a message reporting that a fee must be paid to enable transmission of the electronic message.

Claim 29 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium comprising computer-readable instructions for causing a computer to perform operations comprising ~~code for filtering electronic messages, characterized in that~~:
~~said code provides instructions for interrogating an electronic message to~~ detecting a human-readable access restriction notice in an electronic message by comparing one or more characters of the human-readable access restriction notice to respective characters of one or more access restriction notices stored in memory; ~~applicable to both electronic and non-electronic distribution of information contained in at least a portion of the electronic message~~ and
~~for~~ responding to the detection of the human-readable access restriction notice in accordance with a prescribed transmission policy for handling electronic messages containing the detected access restriction notice.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The system of claim 1, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect at least one of the following notices in the electronic message: a "confidential" notice, an "internal use only" notice, an "attorney-client privileged" notice, and an "attorney work product" notice.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The method of claim 14, wherein ~~interrogating the electronic message for the access restriction notice~~ the detecting comprises detecting at least one of the following notices in the electronic message: a "confidential" notice, an "internal use only" notice, an "attorney-client privileged" notice, and an "attorney work product" notice.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The computer-readable medium of claim 29, wherein said code provides instructions for detecting in the electronic message at least one of a "copyright" notice, a "confidential" notice, an "internal use only" notice, an "attorney-client privileged" notice, and an "attorney work product" notice.

Claim 33 (new): The system of claim 1, wherein the electronic message comprises a primary message and at least one attachment, and the access restriction filter is configured to compare characters in the primary message and characters in the at least one attachment to respective characters of the one or more stored access restriction notices.